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202 • 408 • 4000
FACSIMILE 202 • 408 • 4400

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NUMBER:

10551 U.S. PTO
09/255655
02/23/99

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011 • 322 • 646 • 0353

ATLANTA
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February 23, 1999

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 02405.0167

BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

New U.S. Patent Application

Title: USE OF D-TAGATOSE AS A PREBIOTIC FOOD COMPONENT

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Address: (both inventors) Viby J, Denmark

Sir:

We enclose the following papers for filing in the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above patent application.

1. Application - 21 pages, including 2 independent claims and 12 claims total.
2. Drawings - 5 sheets of FORMAL drawings containing 5 figures.
3. Check in the amount of \$760.00 representing the filing fee.

This application is being filed under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.53(f). Applicants await notification from the Patent and Trademark Office of the time set for filing the Declaration.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional filing fees due and any other fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 during the pendency of this application to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Applicants claim the right to priority based on U.S.
Provisional Application No. 60/075,694, filed February 24, 1998.

Please accord this application a serial number and filing
date.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By



Ernest F. Chapman

Reg. No. 25,961

02405.0167/pa
Enclosures

Title:

Use of D-tagatose as a prebiotic food component

Background of the invention5 **1. Field of the invention**

This invention relates to the use of D-tagatose as a prebiotic component. It can be used as a prebiotic food, food additive or food supplement.

10

Tests have surprisingly shown that oral intake of the unabsorbable carbohydrate, D-tagatose, induces production of butyrate in colon. From the literature it is known that butyrate possibly has a colon cancer protective effect. Further, tests have shown that oral intake of D-tagatose stimulates the growth of beneficial lactobacilli and lactic acid bacteria in the human colon. Therefore, D-tagatose is useful as a prebiotic food to stimulate the growth of beneficial bacteria and to induce the production of butyrate. Such prebiotic food is thus presumably useful for normalizing the bacterial flora in the colon and for preventing the risk of colon cancer in human beings.

15

20

25 D-tagatose is a well-known keto-hexose which is useful as a reduced-calorie food sweetening and bulking agent, and as an additive in detergent, cosmetic and pharmaceutical formulations. U.S. Patents Nos. 5,002,612 and 5,078,796 to Beedle et al. teach processes of making D-tagatose by isomerizing a mixture containing D-galactose with a metal hydroxide in the presence of a catalyst at a relatively low temperature to form an intermediate complex, followed by neutralization with acid to yield D-tagatose.

30

D-tagatose is known as an anti-hyperglycaemic agent that can be used to inhibit formation of advanced glycosylation in products in mammals, as described in U.S. Patents 5,356,879 and 5,447,917 to Zehner et al. D-
5 tagatose also is known as a low-calorie carbohydrate sweetener and bulking agent that can be used in the preparation of sweetened edible formulations in stead of sucrose, as taught in U.S. Patent 4,786,722 to Zehner.

10 2. Description of the Related Art

The mucosal surfaces of the intestinal tract are amongst the main sites of cell replication in the human body. In the colon the epithelial cells are exposed not only to
15 the circulation and to the endogenous secretions of other mucosal cells, but also to the contents of the colonic lumen which is rich in food residues and the metabolic products of the micro flora. (I. T. Johnson "Butyrate and markers of neoplastic change in the colon", European
20 Journal of Cancer Prevention, Vol. 4, 1995) . Epidemiological and animal studies suggest that dietary fat and protein may promote carcinogenesis in the colon, whereas increases in fibre and complex carbohydrates in the diet may protect against colon cancer. Colonic
25 luminal butyrate concentrations are postulated to be the key protective component of high-fibre diets against colon cancer (O.C. Velázquez, H.W. Lederer and J.L. Rombeau 1996. "Butyrate and the Colonocyte: Implications for Neoplasia", Digestive Diseases and Science Vol. 41,
30 No. 4: 727-739).

Butyrate is one of the short-chain fatty acids (SCFA), i.e. the C2-5 organic acids. These compounds are formed in the gastrointestinal tract of mammals as a result of
35 anaerobic bacterial fermentation of undigested dietary components, and are readily absorbed by the colonic

epithelium. Dietary fibre is the principal substrate for the fermentation of SCFA in humans, however, intake of fibres is often low in a typical western diet. Other undigested components, like starch, proteins, contribute to the production of SCFA, but also low-molecular weight oligosaccharides, sugars, and polyols, which escape digestion and absorption in the small intestine, contribute to the production of SCFA. In the mammalian hind gut, acetate, propionate, and butyrate account for at least 83% of SCFA and are present in a nearly constant molar ratio 60:25:15 (Velazquez et al. , supra).

In vitro studies on fibre and other indigestible carbohydrates in human faecal incubations indicate 3-22% butyrate, only various forms of starches and resistant starches had a butyrate proportion of 22-29% (F. Bornet, C. Alamowitch and G. Slama 1994. "Acides Gras Volatils: Des actions sur le metabolisme glucidique", Rev Prat 44(8):1051-1055). Similarly, ileal effluents from pigs eating beet fibre and barley bran incubated in human faecal slurry *in vitro* incubation did not increase the proportion of butyrate beyond the 18% observed with ileal effluents from a fibre free pig diet (A. Fardet, F. Guillon, C. Hoebler and J-L. Barry 1997. "In vitro fermentation of beet fibre and barley bran, of their insoluble residues after digestion and ileal effluents", J. Sci Food Agric 75: 315-325). In a pig study ingesting either raw potato starch, hylon starch or retrograded hylon starch, the molar proportion of butyrate was not higher than 14% at the highest level, which was in the proximal colon, and similarly the *in vitro* incubation showed only between 14 and 25% butyrate (mol%) (L.J.M. Martin, H.J.W. Dumon and M.M. J. Champ 1998. "Production of short-chain fatty acids from resistant starch in a pig model", J. Sci. Food Agric. 77:71-80.

A study of fermentation of mono- and disaccharide in a human faecal *in vitro* system, indicated a high proportion of butyrate on fermentation of sorbitol, galacturonic acid and glucuronic acid (P. B. Mortensen, K. Holtug and H.S. Rasmussen 1988, "Short-chain fatty acid production from mono- and disaccharides in a faecal incubation system: Implications for colonic fermentation of dietary fiber in humans", J. Nutr. 118:321-325). The findings of high butyrate with sorbitol are not confirmed on incubation with maltitol, which consists of 50% glucose and 50% sorbitol, as *in vitro* incubation of maltitol only indicated 10% butyrate (A. Rapaille and F. Bornet, "Maltitol, recent findings on colonic health", FIE London 1997).

The colonic epithelium is a dynamic tissue in a state of continual renewal. Cells proliferate in the lower two-thirds of the normal colonic crypt, and cease dividing as they migrate further up the crypt. The continuous movement of cells up the colonic crypt is tightly linked to differentiation (A. Hague, A. J. Butt and C. Paraskeva 1996 "The role of butyrate in human colonic epithelial cells: An energy source or inducer of differentiation and apoptosis", Proceedings of the Nutrition Society 55:937-943).

Butyrate appears to be of central importance to the colonic epithelium because it is the major and preferred fuel (W.E.W. Roediger 1980, "Role of anaerobic bacteria in the metabolic welfare of the colonic mucosa in man", Gut 21:793-798) and plays a role in the control of proliferation and differentiation of colonic epithelial cells. Many studies have demonstrated that butyrate is trophic to the colonic mucosa at physiological

concentrations, and this is due to an acceleration of crypt cell proliferation (Johnson, *supra*).

In many tissues undergoing rapid turnover of cells,
 5 apoptosis is involved in the maintenance of tissue homeostasis. In the gut, where the epithelial cells are exposed to dietary carcinogens, cells undergo apoptosis as a means of eliminating damaged cells and, thus, protecting the tissue against neoplastic changes. Several
 10 *in vitro* studies have indicated that butyrate causes apoptosis at physiological concentrations (2-4 mM) (A. Hague and C. Paraskeva "The short-chain fatty acid butyrate induces apoptosis in colorectal tumor cell lines", European Journal of Cancer Prevention, Vol. 4,
 15 1995).

In contrast to the above mentioned trophic effect of butyrate on normal mucosa, the growth of neoplastic colonocytes is arrested by butyrate, which also inhibits
 20 the preneoplastic hyper proliferation induced by tumor promotor *in vitro*. The uncontrolled growth of cancer cell lines is stopped, and differentiation is induced by butyrate (Velazquez et al., *supra*).

25 The lactobacilli are important inhabitants of the intestinal tract of man and animals. Lactobacillus species, notably Lactobacillus acidophilus, are most often implicated in assisting the establishment of a 'normal micro flora', especially following antibiotic
 30 therapy. In addition, probiotic lactobacilli have been implicated in a variety of beneficial roles, including (T. R. Klaenhammer 1998, "Functional activities of lactobacillus probiotics: Genetic mandate", Int. Dairy Journal 8:497-505): Maintenance of the normal micro
 35 flora, pathogen interference, exclusion and antagonism,

immunostimulation and immunomodulation, anticarcinogenic and antimutagenic activities, deconjugation of bile acids, lactase presentation *in vivo*.

- 5 Another effect mentioned of lactobacillus is reduction in blood cholesterol (C. Daly, G.F. Fitzgerald, L. O'Conner and R. Davis 1998, "Technological and health benefits of dairy starter cultures", Int. Dairy Journal 8:195-205)
- 10 A lot of studies on probiotic bacteria have shown that it is very difficult for these bacteria to colonize the human colon, that is after having stopped supply of probiotic bacteria in the diet , they disappear from faeces. This makes it more obvious to isolate possible probiotic
- 15 bacteria from the human intestine (U.S. Patent 5,709,857). It is even more obvious to selectively feed the lactobacillus already present in the colon (prebiotic concept).
- 20 The literature on beneficial effects and mechanism on both butyrate and lactobacillus is very abundant, so only recent review type articles are referred to in this section.

25 **Summary of the Invention**

- D-tagatose is a naturally-occurring keto-hexose which only differs from D-fructose at the fourth carbon atom. The rather small difference has big implications on the
- 30 overall metabolism of D-tagatose, as only 15-20% of ingested D-tagatose is absorbed in the small intestine. The major part of ingested D-tagatose is fermented in the colon by indigenous micro flora resulting in production of short-chain fatty acids (SCFA). The novelty of D-
 - 35 tagatose is that the fermentation induces a very unique

profile of SCFA's with a high proportion of butyrate. These findings are documented in *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies in pig and in human faecal *in vitro* experiments.

- 5 Human studies document that generally accepted beneficial bacteria, like lactobacilli and lactic acid bacteria, are increased in human faeces upon ingestion of D-tagatose.

- Being a potential future food ingredient with a sweetness
10 similar to sucrose, D-tagatose is an ideal ingredient for application in a range of food products. The ideal fermentation products of D-tagatose with a high proportion of butyrate and stimulation of growth of lactobacilli make D-tagatose an ideal future prebiotic
15 food ingredient that keeps a healthy balance in the colon and may have even a cancer protective role.

- Thus, the invention relates to use of D-tagatose as a prebiotic food , food additive or food supplement.

- 20 D-tagatose has been shown to induce production of butyrate by bacteria in the human colon and to stimulate growth of lactobacilli and lactic acid bacteria in the human colon. This makes D-tagatose a possible candidate
25 for the production of a drug for preventing colon cancer.

- D-tagatose can be taken orally in an effective amount to induce production of butyrate in the human colon and/or
30 to stimulate the growth of lactobacilli and lactic bacteria in the human colon. Such amount will normally be 5 to 30 gram, and preferably 5 to 15 gram a day taken 1-3 times a day. D-tagatose can be taken in any normal food product, such as confectionery, chewing gum, ice cream,
35 dessert, soft drink, breakfast cereal, yoghurt, health

drink or health bar. It has been proposed to substitute sucrose or to sweeten such products using D-tagatose. It is of course also possible to use D-tagatose as such, for example as a sweetener in coffee, tea or the like, or to
 5 take it as it is or in a formulated form, such as tablets. The amounts effective to achieve the useful effects according to the invention are the same as normally used to sweeten food products and/or to give them the normal bulk effect.

10

This is achieved by incorporation of 10 - 20% by weights of D-tagatose in breakfast cereals, where the normal serving is 60 g, 5 - 10% by weight of D-tagatose in breakfast yoghurt, where the normal serving is 150 g.

15 Further, it is proposed to incorporate 2 - 4% by weight in health drinks, where the normal serving is 250 - 330 ml and 20 - 30 % by weight in health bars, where the normal serving is 30 to 50g.

20 The accompanying drawing illustrates the invention.

Fig. 1 shows the concentration of butyrate in various gastrointestinal sections.

Fig. 2 shows the 12 hour *in vitro* production of butyrate
 25 in the content from different gut sections.

Fig. 3 shows the total 12 hour *in vitro* production of SCFA.

Fig. 4 shows the butyric acid absorption in the blood.

Fig. 5 shows the influence of D-tagatose on bacterial
 30 composition in human faeces.

Detailed description of the Invention

The invention is further illustrated by the following
 35 non-limiting examples.

Example 1:

In the study, one group of 8 pigs was having a standard
5 diet + 15% sucrose (unadapted), and another group of 8
pigs was fed a standard diet +5% sucrose + 10% D-tagatose
(adapted) for 17 days.

On the 17. day the pigs were killed 3 hours after the
10 morning feeding, and the entire gastrointestinal tract
was sectioned. Content from mid-colon was used for *in*
vitro fermentation assays. 20% slurries were incubated
at 37° C and anaerobic conditions for 4 hours with or
without 1% D-tagatose added. The amount of SCFA produced
15 by D-tagatose is calculated as the amount produced in the
assay with 1% D-tagatose added subtracted by the amount
produced in the assay without D-tagatose.

Table 1 shows that colon content from adapted pigs
20 ferments D-tagatose in a very special way with low
acetate and high butyrate and valerate, whereas the colon
content from unadapted pigs gives a rather normal SCFA
profile with less than 20% butyrate and a high proportion
of acetate. The overall fermentation rate, measured as
25 rate of degradation of D-tagatose, is low in *in vitro*
incubation with D-tagatose in unadapted pigs, 1.1 g of D-
tagatose pr hour pr kg digesta versus 15.3 g of D-
tagatose pr hour pr kg digesta in adapted pigs.

30

35

Table 1

In vitro Incubations - 3 Hours after Slaughtering
Mole % of SCFA after microbial fermentation of D-Tagatose

5

	Control pigs		D-tagatose pigs	
	caecum	colon	caecum	colon
Formate	2.5	0.0	14.4	3.7
Acetate	54.8	70.1	21.5	23.3
Propionate	11.2	0.0	17.0	4.0
Butyrate	18.2	16.7	21.8	46.3
Valerate	11.1	7.8	23.4	15.1
Capronate	2.0	4.8	1.9	6.8
Heptanoate	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Tagatose degradation g/h/kg digesta	2.7	1.1	3.7	15.3

Production (0-4 h) of SCFA = SCFA (1% tagatose added) -
SCFA (no tagatose added)

10

Example 2:

In this study, 3 groups of each 2 pigs were having a
standard pig diet + 20% sucrose, a standard pig diet +
10% sucrose + 10% D-tagatose, and a standard pig diet +
20% D-tagatose for 33 days. The pigs were killed on the
33. day 6 hours after morning feeding, and the entire
gastrointestinal tract was divided into 8 segments.

20

The concentrations of the various SCFA were measured in the 8 sections immediately after killing, and further the content from the 8 sections was used for 12 hour *in vitro* incubations at 37°C and anaerobic conditions. In this *in vitro* assay no D-tagatose was added, and the fermentation products originate from unabsorbed D-tagatose and other undigestible food components from the diets.

Fig. 1 shows the concentration of butyrate in the various gastrointestinal sections at the time of slaughtering. The results clearly indicate that butyrate is present only in the hind gut, as expected, and that butyrate is increasing in a dose response manner to the intake of D-tagatose.

Fig. 2 shows that the 12 hour *in vitro* production of butyrate similarly is acting in a dose response manner to the intake of D-tagatose in the diet.

The following abbreviations are used in figures 1 and 2:

st = stomach

Sl1 = small intestine section 1

Sl2 = small intestine section 2

Sl3 = small intestine section 3

Cae = caecum

Col= colon section 1

Co2 = colon section 2

Rec 0 rectum

Fig. 3 shows the total 12 hour *in vitro* production of SCFA in the gut, that is the *in vitro* production rate of SCFA multiplied by the amount of gut material in the various sections. The data presented here are normalized to production of SCFA pr kg feed.

The data clearly indicate that the addition of D-tagatose to the diet, in a dose response manner promote the microbiological production of butyrate, whereas the total production of acetate is not influenced.

5

The following abbreviations are used in figure 3:

For = formic acid (formate)

Acet = acetic acid (acetate)

Prop = propionic acid (propionate)

10 I-but = iso-butyric acid (iso-butyrate)

But = butyric acid (butyrate)

I-val = iso-valeric acid (iso-valerate)

Val = valeric acid (valerate)

Cap = capronic (capronate)

15 Lact = lactic acid (lactate)

Example 3:

20 In this pig study the *in vivo* absorption of SCFA in the blood is measured by taking blood samples simultaneously from 3 catheters in Vena Mesenterica, Ateria mesenterica and Vena Porta over a 12 hour period after the morning feeding. The absorption is measured in the same 5 pigs at
25 3 different occasions, that is after 7 days adaptation to standard pig diet + 20% sucrose (sucrose), the first day of switching to a standard pig diet + 20% D-tagatose (unadapted), and after 7 days adaptation to a standard pig diet + 20% D-tagatose (adapted). The concentration
30 of SCFA's is determined in samples from the portal vein, that is the blood stream leading from the digestive system to the liver, and in the arterial blood, that is the blood stream before the digestive system. The difference between the two integrated by time is a
35 measure of the intestinal absorption of SCFA's.

Fig. 4 shows the concentration of butyrate in the portal vein and in the arterial blood as a function of time after feeding. The area between the 2 curves is equal to the total absorption of butyrate from the intestine.

When the pigs were on the 20% sucrose diet, the concentration of butyrate in the portal vein is low and stable over time and very low in the arterial blood, indicating that the absorbed butyrate is cleared by the liver. In the 2. period, unadapted to the 20% D-tagatose diet, the amount of butyrate in the portal vein is gradually increasing over the 12 hours of measuring. When the pigs were measured after 7 days of adaptation to the 20% D-tagatose diet, the concentration of butyrate in the portal blood shows a very steep increase a few hours after feeding, and also the concentration in arterial blood is increasing, indicating that the liver is no longer able to clear the portal vein absorbed butyrate. The total absorption of butyrate represented by the area between the 2 curves does not differ in the adapted and unadapted state.

The absorption of acetate and propionate is not increased by addition of D-tagatose to the diet.

The *in vivo* absorption of butyrate in the portal vein does not directly reflect the production of butyrate in the colon. Under normal conditions a great part of the produced butyrate is utilized by the colonic mucosa before entering the blood. The very large *in vivo* absorption of butyrate merely reflects a production of butyrate in the colon that far exceeds the utilisation by the mucosal cells.

These absorption data clearly support a D-tagatose induced production of butyrate *in vivo*, and that the adaptation to butyrate production takes place within 12 hours.

5

Example 4:

In this study 16 human volunteers deliver a faeces sample before any intake of D-tagatose (unadapted) and another faeces sample after 14 days' intake of 3 x 10 g of D-tagatose pr day (adapted). The 16 volunteers are on controlled diet 4 days before the delivery of each faeces samples. Faeces slurries , 20%, were incubated at 37° C and anaerobic conditions for 48 hours with or without 1% D-tagatose added. Samples for determination of SCFA were taken after 4 hours and after 48 hours of incubation. The amount of SCFA produced by D-tagatose is calculated as the amount produced in the assay with 1% D-tagatose added subtracted by the amount produced in the assay without D-tagatose. Further, the delivered faeces samples were tested for content of various intestinal bacteria counts by spreading on selective media.

Table 2 shows the mol% of the various SCFA produced *in vitro* by D-tagatose in the unadapted and adapted state, and also the actually produced total SCFA in mmol pr l of incubation slurry.

30

35

Table 2

5 In Vitro Fermentation of Tagatose by Incubation of Human Faeces

Molar Ratios (Mole%) of SCFA's

10

	4 hours of incubation		48 hours of incubation	
	Non-adapted	Adapted	Non-adapted	Adapted
Formic acid	0.5	5.8	0.0	0.1
Acetic acid	62.8	42.1	37.7	35.3
Propionic acid	0.0	4.1	0.0	0.5
Butyric acid	24.5	34.7	38.7	47.0
Valeric acid	3.0	1.0	1.2	1.6
Capronic acid	6.7	3.5	15.2	13.5
Heptanic acid	1.1	0.6	1.6	1.2
Lactic acid	3.9	9.0	8.6	3.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total SCFA (production mmol/l)	8.8	24.3	49.0	44.0

15 The production of SCFA is 8.8 mmol/l and 24.3 mmol/l after 4 hours of incubation in the unadapted and adapted state, respectively. The ratio of butyrate after 4 hours of incubation is also higher in the adapted state and much higher than the normally observed 15-20%. After 48 hours of incubation there is no longer any difference in the amount of SCFA produced, and the proportion of

butyrate is high both in the adapted and unadapted incubations. These data also support a D-tagatose induced production of butyrate, and an adaptation in the *in vitro* incubation system within 48 hours.

5

Fig. 5 shows the results of counting bacteria (log scale) on different selective media. The number of lactobacilli and lactic acid bacteria is increased in number, and entero-bacteria is decreased in faeces of human volunteers ingesting D-tagatose for 14 days compared to the same persons not ingesting D-tagatose.

10

The following abbreviations are used in figure 5:

coli = coliform bacteria

15 LNE = lactose neg. enterobacteria

LAB = lactic acid bacteria

LAC = lactobacilli

Ent = enterococci

Tot an = anaerobes

20 Bac = bacteroides

Bif = bifidobacteria

25

30

35

Conclusion

The 2 *in vitro* studies in pigs (Examples 1 and 2) with
5 addition of D-tagatose and relying on D-tagatose escaping
absorption in the small intestine, showed a D-tagatose
induced butyrate production. More importantly, the
concentration in the colon of pigs immediately after
slaughter, reflecting the concentrations *in vivo*, showed
10 a dose response increase in butyrate concentration to the
amount of D-tagatose ingested. Even more importantly, the
in vivo absorption of butyrate in the portal vein
documents a very prominent butyrate inducing effect of D-
tagatose.

15 None of these above mentioned studies in pigs, that is
taking of samples of colon content and blood samples
from the portal vein, can be performed in humans for
ethical reasons. However, pig and human have the same
20 structure of the gastrointestinal tract and harbors
qualitatively the same types of intestinal bacteria, so
the pig serves as a good model for humans in digestion
and fermentation. To perform human studies, one has to
rely on *in vitro* studies with D-tagatose added to human
25 faecal slurries. These studies showed the same trends of
D-tagatose induced butyrate production as in the pig
incubations performed with colon content slurries.

The intestine of both pig and human harbors bacteria
30 which have butyrate as the fermentation end product. D-
tagatose is a rather rare sugar for intestinal bacteria
and is only fermented by a limited number of genera of
bacteria, enterococci, lactobacilli, and obviously some
butyrate producing intestinal bacteria. Other fibres or
35 undigested carbohydrates are either not a substrate for

butyrate producing bacteria, or competition for the delivered substrate favours growth of other bacteria. A reasonable explanation for the butyrate inducing effect of D-tagatose is that butyrate producing bacteria is

5 favoured over most other bacteria when supplying D-tagatose. The adaptation seen with ingestion of D-tagatose in both pigs and human volunteers is probably due to selection of butyrate producing bacteria in the colon. The *in vivo* absorption study in pigs showed that

10 the adaptation or selection of bacteria takes place already within 12 hours. Similarly, the *in vitro* study with human faeces indicates selection of bacteria within the 48 hours of incubation.

15 Overall, between 10 and 60 g of carbohydrate containing compounds become available to the human flora on a daily basis and constitute the major influence on intraluminal events (G.T. Mcfarlane and J.H. Cummings 1991. The colonic flora, fermentation, and large bowel digestive

20 function; In The large intestine: Physiology, pathophysiology, and disease, Ed: S.F. Phillips, J. H. Pemberton and R.G. Shorter. Raven Press, Ltd., New York.). The intake of D-tagatose is, like all other

25 unabsorbable carbohydrates, in practice limited in intake by gastrointestinal side effects. Oral intake 5-30 g of D-tagatose pr day aiming at a pre-biotic effect is very easily achieved as D-tagatose can be incorporated in

30 almost any food, but most obviously in applications as a substitute for sucrose, for example , as mentioned, in confectionery and chewing gum, ice cream and other

desserts, yoghurts, cereals and energy bars, soft drinks and health drinks

We claim:

1. A method for inducing production of butyrate by bacteria in the human colon comprising administering D-tagatose to a human in an amount effective to induce production of butyrate.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein D-tagatose is administered orally.
3. A method according to claim 2 wherein D-tagatose is administered in a daily amount of 5 to 30 grams.
4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the daily amount is 5 to 15 grams.
5. A method according to claim 2 wherein D-tagatose is administered orally in a food product.
6. A method according to claim 5 wherein the food product is selected from the group consisting of a confectionery, chewing gum, ice cream, dessert, soft drink, breakfast cereal, yogurt, health drink and health bar.
7. A method for stimulating growth of lactobacilli and lactic acid bacteria in the human colon comprising administering D-tagatose to a human in an amount effective to stimulate growth of lactobacilli and lactic bacteria in the human colon.
8. A method according to claim 7 wherein D-tagatose is administered orally.
9. A method according to claim 8 wherein D-tagatose is administered in a daily amount of 5 to 30 grams.

10. A method according to claim 9 wherein the daily amount is 5 to 15 grams.

5 11. A method according to claim 8 wherein D-tagatose is administered orally in a food product.

12. A method according to claim 11 wherein the food product is selected from the group consisting of a confectionery, chewing gum, ice cream, dessert, soft drink, breakfast cereal, yogurt, health drink and health bar.

Abstract of the invention

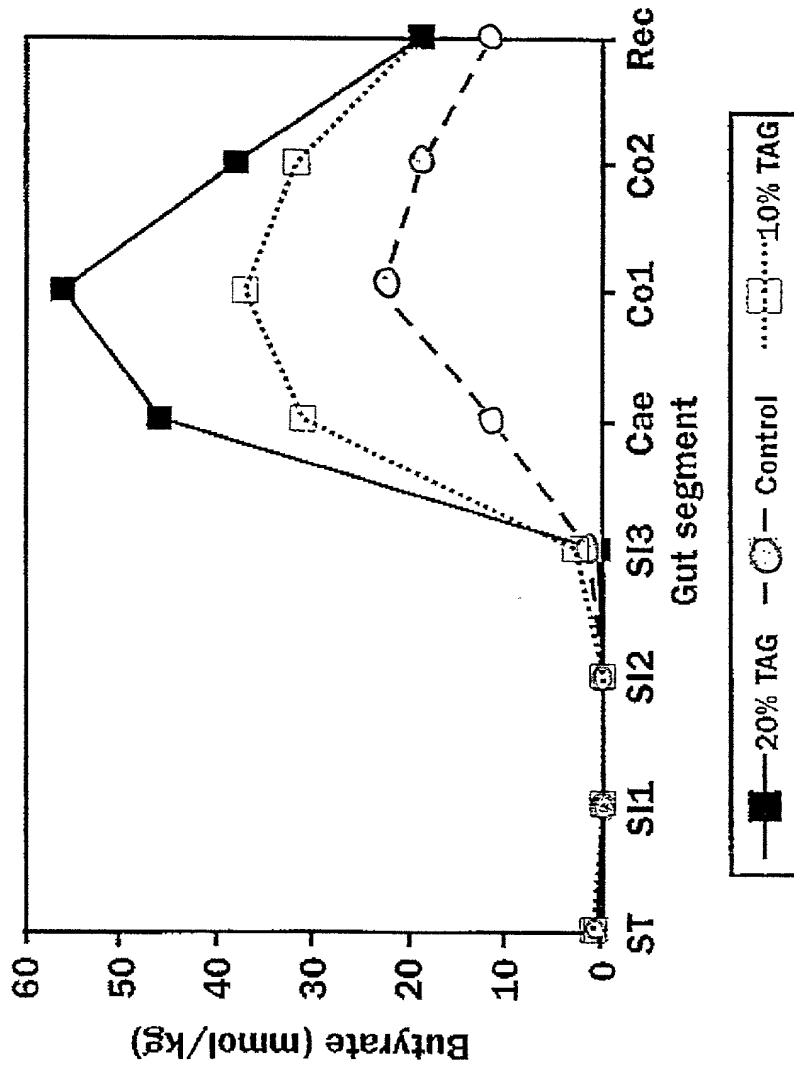
"Use of D-tagatose as a prebiotic food component"

- 5 Oral intake of D-tagatose in a prebiotic food induces production of butyrate and stimulates the growth of beneficial bacteria in the human colon. Therefore it is believed to be useful in food or the like as preventive drug against colon cancer.

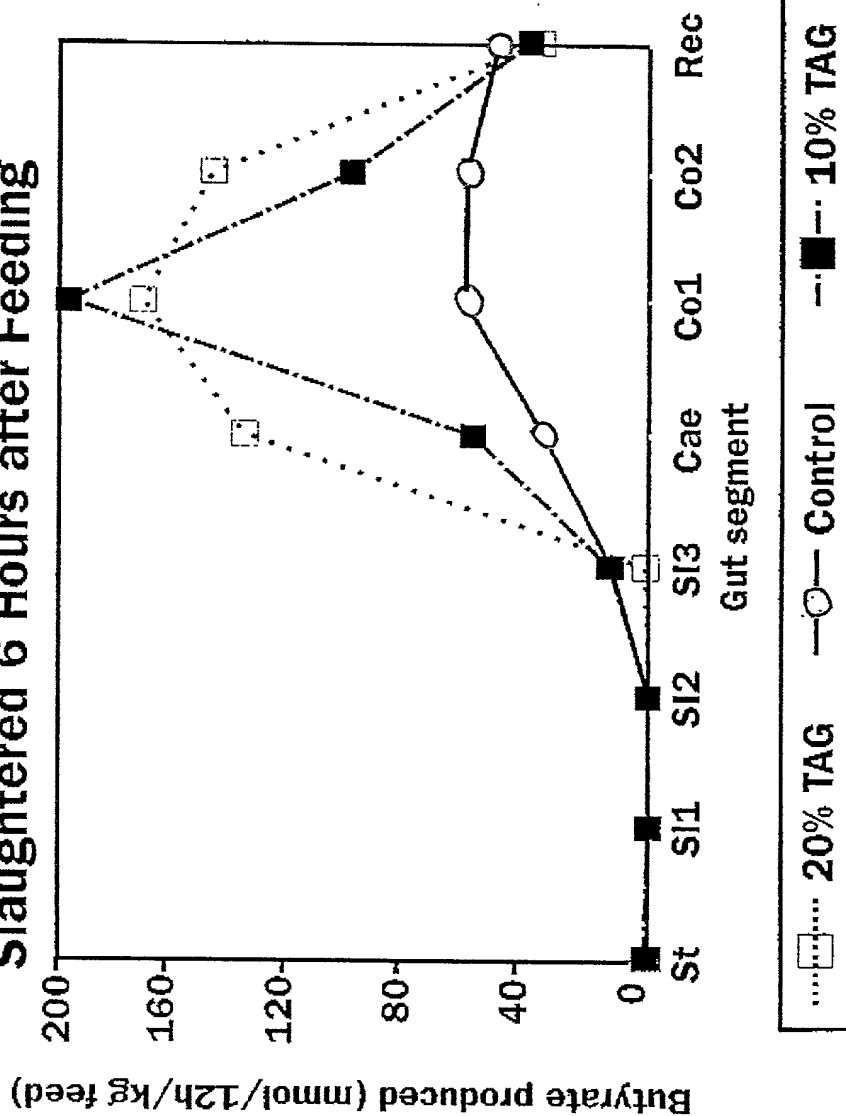
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B E C O N

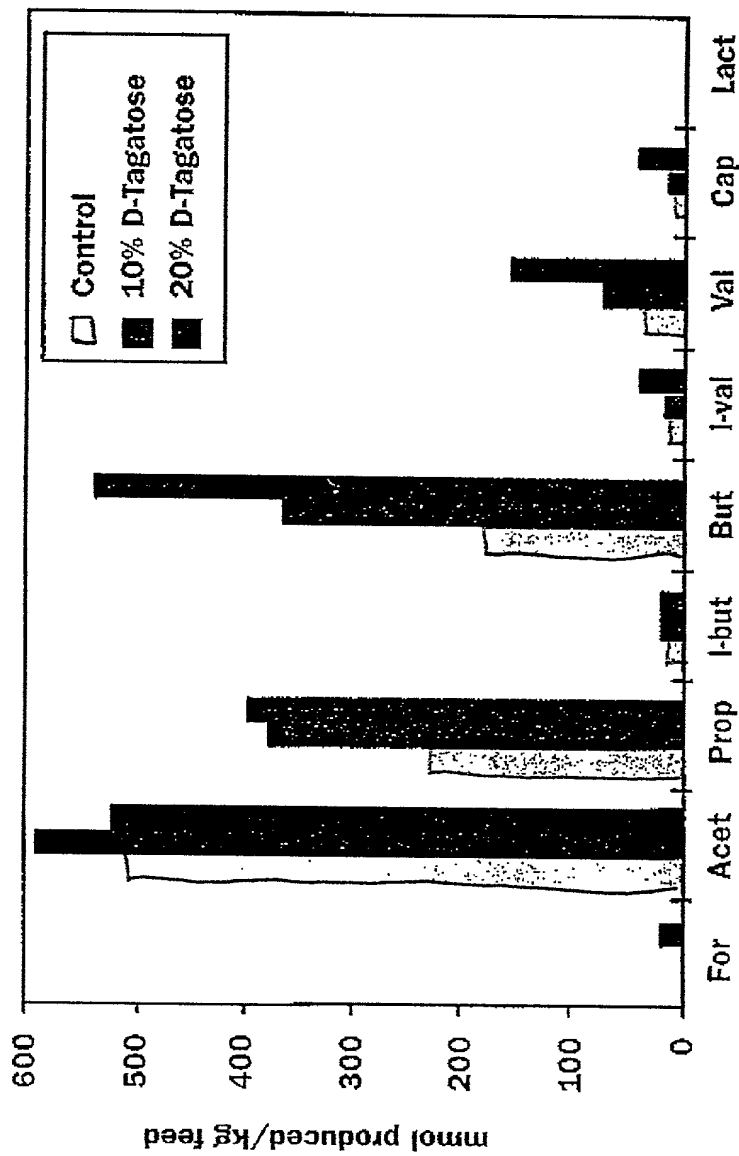
Concentration of Butyrate in Pig Gut Segments Slaughtered 6 Hours after Feeding



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2
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In Vitro Incubation of Gut Content from Pig Slaughtered 6 Hours after Feeding



*gut = caecum +Co1+Co2+rectum

Figure 1 consists of three vertically stacked line graphs sharing a common x-axis labeled 'Time after feeding' with values from 0 to 12. The y-axis for all graphs is 'Butyric acid concentration (mmol/L)' ranging from 0.00 to 0.30. A legend indicates that solid lines with diamond markers represent 'Arterial' blood and dashed lines with square markers represent 'Portal' blood.

- Sucrose (top graph):** Both arterial and portal concentrations remain low, below 0.05 mmol/L, throughout the 12-hour period.
- Tagatose, non adapted (middle graph):** Portal concentration increases significantly after 4 hours, peaking at approximately 0.22 mmol/L at 7 hours, then slightly decreasing. Arterial concentration remains low, below 0.05 mmol/L.
- Tagatose, adapted (bottom graph):** Both concentrations increase after 4 hours. Arterial concentration peaks at approximately 0.12 mmol/L at 12 hours. Portal concentration peaks higher, at approximately 0.26 mmol/L at 12 hours.

Influence of D-Tagatose on Bacterial Composition in Human Faeces

